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Letter dated 6 December 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

In a fresh violation of the ceasefire accords and yet another move designed to derail the current negotiation process, the "Frente POLISARIO", with support from Algeria, is preparing to hold its so-called 12th congress from 14 to 18 December in Tifariti, right in the heart of the buffer strip.

This constitutes a serious and blatant violation of the ceasefire agreements concluded in 1991, since the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) is supposed to ensure that the area east of the berm from which the Royal Armed Forces voluntarily withdrew in order to strengthen the ceasefire and avert any new clashes, including with the Algerian Army, is free from any military presence or civilian facilities.

The transportation of hundreds of persons living in Algerian territory, supervised by soldiers dressed as civilians constitute, as you yourself have pointed out, a breach of military agreement No. 1 (S/2005/254) and contribute "to increased tensions on the ground and may result in a deterioration of the situation ..." (S/2005/648).

In this connection, the Kingdom of Morocco wishes to recall the terms and conditions under which the ceasefire was declared on 6 September 1991. It should like in particular to refer to the letter on this subject dated 3 September 1991 from His Majesty, the late King Hassan II, addressed to the former Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar.

Morocco wishes to reaffirm its determination to preserve its rights over the entire territory and rejects any attempts to establish facts on the ground and change the status of the buffer strip. All the activities conducted in the buffer strip are completely illegal, as those carrying them out are acting without authority.

Moreover, the transportation of hundreds of "refugees" from the Tindouf camps is a violation of international humanitarian law and yet another infringement of their right to preserve their dignity and to be protected from being manipulated or exploited for political propaganda.

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The parties organizing or supporting this sham congress in a dangerous area are putting at risk the lives of these "refugees", who are already in an odd situation, in that they have never been identified or registered as such and are deprived of their fundamental rights to freedom of movement and expression.

These parties are also directly responsible for the diversion of humanitarian assistance provided by the international community to an operation that is pure propaganda.

Furthermore, this demonstration is clearly of a piece with similar activities of other parties designed to adversely affect the positive momentum generated by the Moroccan autonomy initiative and endorsed by Security Council resolutions 1754 (2007) and 1783 (2007) and the draft resolution adopted by the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly on 15 October 2007 (A/62/412, para. 24, draft resolution I).

Finally, it poses a challenge to the Security Council, which in paragraph 2 of resolution 1783 (2007), called on the parties to create an atmosphere propitious for dialogue and for the success of negotiations. These other parties bear responsibility for any deterioration in the situation resulting from their actions.

For all these reasons, the Kingdom of Morocco should be grateful if you would take such measures as you might deem necessary to deal with these dangerous and provocative actions that threaten peace and stability in the region and are incompatible with the climate of trust and calm that must prevail at this crucial point in the search for a negotiated political solution to this regional dispute.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council and have it circulated as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) El Mostafa **Sahel**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative